

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Docket No. 05-231

Pam Gregory

From: Claudia Foy [foyclaudia@yahoo.com] **Sent:** Wed 9/20/2006 1:48 PM
To: FCCINFO; ?Kevin.Martin@fcc.gov; Michael Copps; Jonathan Adelstein; Deborah Tate; Robert McDowell
Cc: Monica Desai; Jay Kelthley; Tom.Chandler@fcc.gov; Cheryl King; ?info@tdi-online.org; Sheila Conlon Mentkowski
Subject: TDI Alert
Attachments:

Kevin J. Martin, Chairman?Michael J. Copps,
 Commissioner?Jonathan S. Adelstein,
 Commissioner?Deborah Taylor Tate, Commissioner?Robert
 M. McDowell, Commissioner

Dear Commissioners,

This is to let you know that I fully support the action alerts from TDI and other national organizations to oppose the decisions taken by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on September 12, 2006. We respectfully ask that the FCC reverse its September 12, 2006 decisions regarding television captioning waivers.

Religious organizations, including churches synagogues and other sites of worship, are a very important part of the community. It is within their mission to support the basic needs of all people within their reach. When Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast one year ago, they were among the first to offer help with shelter, food, and other assistance to the survivors. Captioning TV programs does meet a legitimate basic need for access to information just like building a ramp to the religious organization door. By providing captions to meet the needs of a significant population group, organized religion will find them with an expanded TV viewership, which will lead to an increase in their membership and other support from the community. When children and adults are able to read captions on spiritual programs, they are influenced to live up to high moral standards and contribute their part to the community. Hearing loss is the number one growing disability among senior citizens & they will find themselves depending on captioning to listen to the message.

We want to participate fully in all programs and services at our religious organization because it serves as a vital resource that empowers us to be fully integrated in the community. If one of us who are deaf or hard of hearing sees the services with captions on TV, we can interact with other members, neighbors, fellow employees, family members, and service professionals in the local community. We stand to benefit from the local connection that national religious programs are unable to provide.

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 OCT 26 2006
 Federal Communications Commission
 Office of the Secretary

We know that all video programmers have had ten years to prepare for the captioning regulations now in place, and temporary waivers when appropriate. When you give full permanent exemptions to the two programmers, it reverses all the access we have worked on for years. We ask that programmers consider other possible revenue options such as sponsorships, long-term captioning service agreements, and aftermarket sales (videotapes or DVDs) to cover and minimize the cost of captioning. Or, they can reduce other expenses in their production budgets to enable the provision of captioning.

Closed captioning gives me a) access to news that is indispensable to the community, b) entertainment that is an integral part of our lives, and c) education that paves the way for us to become self-sufficient in society. The information that everyone in the community receives is also important to me and I can only get it if it is captioned.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,
Claudia Foy
3411 North 16th Street
#1065
Phoenix, AZ 85016
(602) 234-2394 TTY
email: foyclaudia@yahoo.com

cc: Monica Desai, Chief, Consumer & Governmental
Affairs Bureau Jay Keithley, Deputy Chief (Policy),
Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau Tom Chandler,
Chief, Disability Rights Office Cheryl King, Deputy
Chief, Disability Rights Office

Honorable Senator John McCain (fax)

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October 6, 2006

Docket No. 05-231 FILED/ACCEPTED
05-231 OCT 26 2006

Dear Chairman and Commissioners,

I am writing to you on behalf of The Staten Island Center for Independent Living, Inc. in reference to the FCC's recent policy changes regarding closed captioning during television programs, news broadcasts, and emergency announcements.

Many Americans view television programs as a major source of information. This comes as a result of their convenience and accessibility; that is, unless the American referred to is an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing. The FCC's decision to grant caption exemptions will virtually eliminate the ability of these individuals to gain valuable information from news programs and emergency alerts. For example, broadcasters relate crucial details, such as food or drug recalls, that individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing will be unaware of if there are no visual cues available.

Similarly, auditory emergency alerts are not always followed by or simulcast with text. These circumstances, combined with your disbelief in the necessity for such visual data, pose a problem. For instance, if the announcement involves a major storm that requires particular preparatory procedures and/or evacuation plans, an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing will be in a very dangerous, possibly fatal predicament because they cannot hear the bulletins. An even more disturbing and heart wrenching example of the devastating effect that your caption exemptions will have on deaf and hard of hearing individuals comes in the form of the story of a woman's desperate search for information about her husband on September 11th. She is totally deaf and her husband worked in the firehouse closest to the World Trade Center.

When the planes struck and the towers crumbled, the closed captioning disappeared. She was frantic and desperately sought another way to locate her husband. When she tried to use her TTY phone, it too was not functioning. There she was—alone, afraid, and stuck in a whirlwind of frightening, graphic, wordless chaos. She had no way of communicating with the world outside; no way of understanding the reports that the broadcasters were giving; no way to call for help or information; no way to find her husband. Fortunately, her husband had been out on another call and had not been in the firehouse when it had been destroyed but, she had no way of knowing this. It took two days for her husband to have the ability to contact her and assure her that he was safe. If only the closed captioning had been working, she could have had two days less of worry, despair, and sadness. What about the individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing who were unable to hear the warning of Hurricane Katrina and died as a result? Do you want your actions to end in millions of stories like these? Would you want a loved one who is deaf or hard of hearing desperately searching for a way to communicate with others and/or to find communication through television broadcasts that is not forthcoming because of your new policies? These are the questions you should be asking yourselves.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I trust that, upon reading this letter and others like it as well as reviewing your decisions regarding closed captioning, you will have a better understanding of the outrage and disdain with which your actions have been met. I am confident that you will do all that is necessary to reverse these abhorrent policies as soon as possible. Some people say that silence is golden but, for those individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing and may not be aware of a disaster before it strikes or while it is occurring, silence is deadly.

Courtney Gross
SI Center for Independent Living, Inc.

dorothy.doran@verizon.net

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Docket No. 05-231

Pam Gregory

From: JTomM129@aol.com [JTomM129@aol.com] **Sent:** Tue 9/26/2006 12:45 AM
To: FCCINFO; Martin@fcc.gov; Copps@fcc.gov; Adelstein@fcc.gov; Tate@fcc.gov; McDowell@fcc.gov
Cc: Monica Desai; Jay Keithley; Cheryl King
Subject: Television captioning waivers
Attachments:

Dear Commissioners,

This is to let you know that I fully support the action alerts from TDI and other national organizations to oppose the decisions taken by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on September 12, 2006. We respectfully ask that the FCC reverse its September 12, 2006 decisions regarding television captioning waivers.

Churches make up a very important part of every community. It is within their mission to support the basic needs of all people within their reach. When Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast one year ago, they were among the first to offer help with shelter, food, and other assistance to the survivors. Captioning TV programs does meet a legitimate basic need for access to information just like building a ramp to the church door. By providing captions to meet the needs of a significant population group, the churches will find themselves with an expanded TV viewership, which will lead to an increase in their membership and other support from the community. When children and adults are able to read captions on spiritual programs, they are influenced to live up to high moral standards and contribute their part to the community. Hearing loss is the number one growing disability among senior citizens – they will find themselves depending on captioning to listen to the message.

We want to participate fully in all programs and services at our local church because it serves as a vital resource that empowers us to be fully integrated in the community. If one of us who are deaf or hard of hearing sees the services with captions on TV, we can interact with other church members, neighbors, fellow employees, family members, and service professionals in the local community. We stand to benefit from the "local connection" that national religious programs are unable to provide.

We know that all video programmers have had ten years to prepare for the captioning regulations now in place, and temporary waivers when appropriate. When you give full permanent exemptions to the two programmers, it reverses all the access we have worked on for years. We ask that programmers consider other possible revenue options such as sponsorships, long-term captioning service agreements, and aftermarket sales (videotapes or DVDs) to cover and minimize the cost of captioning. Or, they can reduce other expenses in their production budgets to enable the provision of captioning.

Closed captioning gives me a) access to news that is indispensable to the community, b) entertainment that is an integral part of our lives, and c) education that paves the way for us to become self-sufficient in society. The information that everyone in the community receives is also important to me and I can only get it if it is captioned.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,
Tom Mengel
7373 S. Ivy Way
Centennial CO 80112
JTomM129@aol.com

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OCT 26 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Docket No. 05-231

Pam Gregory

From: laura sssss [musicmind75@yahoo.com] **Sent:** Thu 9/21/2006 9:05 PM
To: FCCINFO; Kevin Martin; Michael Copps; Jonathan Adelstein; Deborah Tate; Robert McDowell
Cc: Monica Desai; Jay Keithley; Tom.Chandler@fcc.gov; Cheryl King; Inc.info@tdi-online.org
Subject:
Attachments:

September 21, 2006

Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
 Michael J. Copps, Commissioner
 Jonathan S. Adelstein, Commissioner
 Deborah Taylor Tate, Commissioner
 Robert M. McDowell, Commissioner

Dear Commissioners,

This is to let you know that I fully support the action alerts from TDI and other national organizations to oppose the decisions taken by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on September 12, 2006. We respectfully ask that the FCC reverse its September 12, 2006 decisions regarding television captioning waivers.

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We want to participate fully in all programs and services at our local church because it serves as a vital resource that empowers us to be fully integrated in the community. If one of us who are deaf or hard of hearing sees the services with captions on TV, we can interact with other church members, neighbors, fellow employees, family members, and service professionals in the local community. We stand to benefit from the "local connection" that national religious programs are unable to provide.

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Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Laura Safranski
3102 N. 28th St.
Phoenix, Az 85016

cc:
Monica Desai, Chief, Consumer & Governmental Affairs
Bureau Jay Keithley, Deputy Chief (Policy), Consumer &
Governmental Affairs Bureau Tom Chandler, Chief,
Disability Rights Office Cheryl King, Deputy Chief,
Disability Rights Office

Your US Senator and/or US Congressman

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Docket No.

05-231

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Pam Gregory

From: Thomas Chandler
To: Pam Gregory; Francine Crawford
Cc:
Subject: FW: Don't roll back on emergency captioning!
Attachments:

Sent: Mon 10/23/2006 2:56 PM

fyi

*** Non-Public: For Internal Use Only ***

Tom Chandler
 Chief, Disability Rights Office
 Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau
 Federal Communications Commission
 Room 3-B431
 445 12th Street, S.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20554
 (202) 418-1475
 (cell) (703) 338-0372
 (TTY) (202) 418-0597
 thomas.chandler@fcc.gov

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 Office of the Secretary

-----Original Message-----

From: Dave Coles [mailto:davejh53@hotmail.com]
 Sent: Monday, October 23, 2006 2:52 PM
 To: Thomas Chandler
 Subject: Don't roll back on emergency captioning!

October 23, 2006
 Thomas Chandler

Dear Thomas Chandler,

The FCC clarification of the emergency captioning requirements was wrong. All emergency information must be captioned with no exceptions. I must be aware of emergency situations such as a terror alert or impending natural disaster.

I support the Application for Review of Clarification of Obligation of Video Programming Distributors to Make Emergency Information Accessible to Persons with Hearing Disabilities Using Closed Captioning, sent by seven national consumer organizations on August 14, 2006, CG-Docket # 05-231.

Sincerely,

Dave Coles
 3828 Dawnview Rd
 Chester, IL 62233-2824

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Docket No. 05-231

Pam Gregory

From: laura sssss [musicmind75@yahoo.com] **Sent:** Thu 9/21/2006 9:05 PM
To: FCCINFO; Kevin Martin; Michael Copps; Jonathan Adelstein; Deborah Tate; Robert McDowell
Cc: Monica Desai; Jay Keithley; Tom.Chandler@fcc.gov; Cheryl King; Inc.info@tdi-online.org
Subject:
Attachments:

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 OCT 26 2006
 Federal Communications Commission
 Office of the Secretary

September 21, 2006

Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
 Michael J. Copps, Commissioner
 Jonathan S. Adelstein, Commissioner
 Deborah Taylor Tate, Commissioner
 Robert M. McDowell, Commissioner

Dear Commissioners,

This is to let you know that I fully support the action alerts from TDI and other national organizations to oppose the decisions taken by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on September 12, 2006. We respectfully ask that the FCC reverse its September 12, 2006 decisions regarding television captioning waivers.

Churches make up a very important part of every community. It is within their mission to support the basic needs of all people within their reach. When Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast one year ago, they were among the first to offer help with shelter, food, and other assistance to the survivors. Captioning TV programs does meet a legitimate basic need for access to information just like building a ramp to the church door. By providing captions to meet the needs of a significant population group, the churches will find themselves with an expanded TV viewership, which will lead to an increase in their membership and other support from the community. When children and adults are able to read captions on spiritual programs, they are influenced to live up to high moral standards and contribute their part to the community. Hearing loss is the number one growing disability among senior citizens & they will find themselves depending on captioning to listen to the message.

We want to participate fully in all programs and services at our local church because it serves as a vital resource that empowers us to be fully integrated in the community. If one of us who are deaf or hard of hearing sees the services with captions on TV, we can interact with other church members, neighbors, fellow employees, family members, and service professionals in the local community. We stand to benefit from the "local connection" that national religious programs are unable to provide.

We know that all video programmers have had ten years to prepare for the captioning regulations now in place, and temporary waivers when appropriate. When you give full permanent exemptions to the two

programmers, it reverses all the access we have worked on for years. We ask that programmers consider other possible revenue options such as sponsorships, long-term captioning service agreements, and aftermarket sales (videotapes or DVDs) to cover and minimize the cost of captioning. Or, they can reduce other expenses in their production budgets to enable the provision of captioning.

Closed captioning gives me a) access to news that is indispensable to the community, b) entertainment that is an integral part of our lives, and c) education that paves the way for us to become self-sufficient in society. The information that everyone in the community receives is also important to me and I can only get it if it is captioned.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Laura Safranski
3102 N. 28th St.
Phoenix, Az 85016

cc:
Monica Desai, Chief, Consumer & Governmental Affairs
Bureau Jay Keithley, Deputy Chief (Policy), Consumer &
Governmental Affairs Bureau Tom Chandler, Chief,
Disability Rights Office Cheryl King, Deputy Chief,
Disability Rights Office

Your US Senator and/or US Congressman

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Docket No. 05-231

(Pg)

Pam Gregory

From: PRausch [vermontflyer02@yahoo.com] **Sent:** Thu 9/28/2006 12:39 PM
To: Kevin Martin; Deborah Tate; Robert McDowell; Michael Copps; Jonathan Adelstein; Monica Desai
Cc:
Subject: Changes in Closed captioning!
Attachments:

Dear Sirs and Ma'am,

I protest the September 13th, changes in the Close Captioning system. I am Deaf, and no amount of funding will change that!

Leave captioning alone! In fact it needs to be improved!

Peter J. Rausch
Vernon, VT 05354

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Office of the Secretary

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Docket No. 05-231

Pam Gregory

From: MARK D KEMMERER [mdkemme@VERIZON.NET] **Sent:** Sat 9/16/2006 7:39 AM
To: Monica Desai
Cc:
Subject: KEEEP CLOSED CAPTIONED
Attachments:

HI MONICA PLEASE FCC MUST TO KEEP TO HAVE CLOSED CAPTIONED FOREVER CAUSE HEARING PEOPLE CAN HEAR FROM EVERYWHERE FROM THEIR RADIO AND CAR AND ANY BUILDING FOR 24 HOURS AND 7 DAYS THAN DEAF PEOPLE WHO HAVE HARD TIME TO FIND ANY TV IN ANYWHERE TO GET SOME TV WONT GIVE CLOSED CAPTIONED AT ALLL CAUSE LOOK AT 9/11 HAPPEN DEAF PEOPLE LOST AND DONT KNEW WHAT HAPPEN TIL LATER LATE WE FIND OUT TOOOO LATE NOT RIGHT WE NEED TO READ ANY OF PROGRAMS AND MOVIES AND SPECIAL NEWS AND ETC ETC ETC KEEP IT CLOSED CAPTIONED FOREVERRRRR THANKS MARK

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

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Docket No. 05-231

Pam Gregory

From: Tracy Quinlan [tgquinlan@yahoo.com] **Sent:** Thu 9/21/2006 10:36 AM
To: FCCINFO; Kevin Martin; Michael Copps; Jonathan Adelstein; Deborah Tate; Robert McDowell
Cc: Monica Desai; Jay Keithley; Tom.Chandler@fcc.gov; Cheryl King; info@tdi-online.org
Subject: September 12, 2006 FCC Ruling on Television Captioning
Attachments:

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 Federal Communications Commission
 Office of the Secretary

September 21, 2006

Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
 Michael J. Copps, Commissioner
 Jonathan S. Adelstein, Commissioner
 Deborah Taylor Tate, Commissioner
 Robert M. McDowell, Commissioner

Dear Chairman and Commissioners,

I am not deaf or hard of hearing (or hearing-impaired, as you like to say), but I am a student studying to become a sign language interpreter, and as such, this issue affects me as much as my deaf friends and the deaf community.

This is to let you know that I fully support the action alerts from TDI and other national organizations to oppose the decisions taken by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on September 12, 2006. I respectfully ask that the FCC reverse its September 12, 2006 decisions regarding television captioning waivers.

Places of worship make up a very important part of every community. It is within their mission to support the basic needs of all people within their reach. When Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast a little over a year ago, churches and temples were among the first to offer help with shelter, food, and other assistance to the survivors. Captioning TV programs meets a legitimate basic need for access to information just like building a wheelchair ramp to the church or temple door. By providing captions to meet the needs of a significant population group, these places of worship will find themselves with an expanded TV viewership, which will lead to an increase in their membership and other support from the community. When children and adults are able to read captions on spiritual programs, they are influenced to live up to high moral standards and contribute their part to the community. Hearing loss is the number one growing disability among senior citizens, and they will find themselves depending on captioning to listen to the message.

The deaf community wants to participate fully in all programs and services at local places of worship because it serves as a vital resource that empowers them to be fully integrated in the community. If the deaf or hard of hearing consumers see the services with captions on TV, they can interact with other congregants, neighbors, fellow employees, family members, and service professionals in the local community. We all stand to benefit from the local connection that national religious programs are unable to provide.

Video programmers have had ten years to prepare for the captioning regulations now in place and temporary waivers, when appropriate. When you give full permanent exemptions to the two programmers, it reverses all the access deaf and hard of hearing advocates have worked on for years. We ask that programmers consider other possible revenue options such as sponsorships, long-term captioning service agreements, and aftermarket sales (videotapes or DVDs) to cover and minimize the cost of captioning. Another option is to reduce other expenses in their production budgets to enable the provision of captioning.

Closed captioning gives the deaf community a) access to indispensable news, b) entertainment that is an integral part of every person's life, and c) education that paves the way for becoming self-sufficient and a contributing member of society. The FCC must provide EQUAL ACCESS to everyone in the community. If those of us with "normal" hearing have access to these programs whenever we choose to turn them on, then the deaf and hard of hearing community should be guaranteed the same rights. The only way they can get that access is if it is captioned. By not captioning these, or any television programs, this country is denying the rights of yet another minority group. Is this the legacy we want to pass on to future generations? I hope you agree with me that it is not!

Thank you for your sincere consideration.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Tracy Quinlan
 5525 W. Fallen Leaf Ln.
 Glendale, AZ 85310
 tgquinlan@yahoo.com

cc:

Monica Desai, Chief, Consumer & Governmental Affairs
Bureau Jay Keithley, Deputy Chief (Policy), Consumer &
Governmental Affairs Bureau Tom Chandler, Chief,
Disability Rights Office Cheryl King, Deputy Chief,
Disability Rights Office

Email sent separately:

Iowa Senator, Tom Harkin
Arizona Senator, Jon Kyl
Arizona Senator, John McCain

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Docket No 05-231

Pam Gregory

From: Blidfors1@aol.com [Blidfors1@aol.com] **Sent:** Tue 9/19/2006 2:00 PM
To: FCCINFO; Kevin Martin; Michael Copps; Jonathan Adelstein; Deborah Tate; Robert McDowell; Monica Desai; Jay Keithley; Tom.Chandler@fcc.gov; Cheryl King; info@tdi-online.org
Cc: Blidfors1@aol.com
Subject: (no subject)
Attachments:

FILED/ACCEPTED
OCT 26 2006
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

September 18, 2006

TO:

Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Michael J. Copps, Commissioner
Jonathan S. Adelstein, Commissioner
Deborah Taylor Tate, Commissioner
Robert M. McDowell, Commissioner

Dear Commissioners,

This is to let you know that I fully support the action alerts from TDI and other national organizations to oppose the decisions taken by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on September 12, 2006. We respectfully ask that the FCC reverse its September 12, 2006 decisions regarding television captioning waivers.

Churches make up a very important part of every community. It is within their mission to support the basic needs of all people within their reach. When Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast one year ago, they were among the first to offer help with shelter, food, and other assistance to the survivors. Captioning TV programs does meet a legitimate basic need for access to information just like building a ramp to the church door. By providing captions to meet the needs of a significant population group, the churches will find themselves with an expanded TV viewership, which will lead to an increase in their membership and other support from the community. When children and adults are able to read captions on spiritual programs, they are influenced to live up to high moral standards and contribute their part to the community. Hearing loss is the number one growing disability among senior citizens – they will find themselves depending on captioning to listen to the message.

We want to participate fully in all programs and services at our local church because it serves as a vital resource that empowers us to be fully integrated in the community. If one of us who are deaf or hard of hearing sees the services with captions on TV, we can interact with other church members, neighbors, fellow employees, family members, and service professionals in the local community. We stand to benefit from the "local connection" that national religious programs are unable to provide.

We know that all video programmers have had ten years to prepare for the captioning regulations now in place, and temporary waivers when appropriate. When you give full permanent exemptions to the two programmers, it reverses all the access we have worked on for years. We ask that programmers consider other possible revenue options such as sponsorships, long-term captioning service agreements, and aftermarket sales (videotapes or DVDs) to cover and minimize the cost of captioning. Or, they can reduce other expenses in their production budgets to enable the provision of captioning.

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Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Robert H. Lidfors
PO Box 1129
Beaverton, OR 97075-1129
Email address: Blidfors1@aol.com
CC:

- Monica Desai, Chief, Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau
- Jay Keithley, Deputy Chief (Policy) Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau
- Tom Chandler, Chief, Disability Rights Office
- Cheryl King, Deputy Chief, Disability Rights Office
- Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc.
- US Senator Gordon Smith- US Senator Ron Wyden
- US Representative Peter DeFazio

05 - 231

Pam Gregory

From: tweety [tweetyunny58@adelphia.net]
To: Tom.Chandler@fcc.gov; Cheryl King; info@tdi-online.org
Cc:
Subject: Television Captioning wavier
Attachments:

Sent: Tue 9/19/2006 3:13 PM

Dear Commissioners,

This is to let you know that I fully support the action alerts from TDI and other national organizations to oppose the decisions taken by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on September 12, 2006. We respectfully ask that the FCC reverse its September 12, 2006 decisions regarding television captioning waivers.

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important to me and I can only get it if it is captioned.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,
Mary Lou Flesh
8 Hough Street
St.Johnsville,NY 13452
My email address is : TweetySunny58@gmail.com

Docket No. 05-231

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

 You forwarded this message on 9/20/2006 5:57 PM.
Pam Gregory

From: Ronald Demey [rondemey@hotmail.com] **Sent:** Wed 9/20/2006 5:34 PM
To: FCCINFO; Kevin Martin; Michael Copps; Jonathan Adelstein; Deborah Tate; Robert McDowell
Cc: Monica Desai; Jay Keithley; Tom.Chandler@fcc.gov; Cheryl King; info@tdi-online.org
Subject:
Attachments:

- US Senator Barbara Boxer

- US Senator Diane Feinstein

- US Representative _____

The FCC mailing address and fax number is:

Federal Communications Commission
 445 12th Street, SW
 Washington, DC 20054

FAX: Attn: Chairman Martin
 (202) 418-0232

Feel free to copy this sample letter below and add your personal part in the letter. If you know of any locally produced outdoor or religious shows that ARE captioned, please to mention it in your letter.

September 18, 2006

Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
 Michael J. Copps, Commissioner
 Jonathan S. Adelstein, Commissioner
 Deborah Taylor Tate, Commissioner
 Robert M. McDowell, Commissioner

Dear Commissioners,

This is to let you know that I fully support the action alerts from TDI and other national organizations to oppose the decisions taken by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on September 12, 2006. We respectfully ask that the FCC reverse its September 12, 2006 decisions regarding television captioning waivers.

Churches make up a very important part of every community. It is within their mission to support the basic needs of all people within their reach. When Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast one year ago, they were among the first to offer help with shelter, food, and other assistance to the survivors. Captioning TV programs does meet a legitimate basic need for access to information just like building a ramp to the church door. By providing captions to meet the needs of a significant population group, the churches will find themselves with an expanded TV viewership, which will lead to an increase in their membership and other support from the community. When children and adults are able to read captions on spiritual programs, they are influenced to live up to high moral standards and contribute their part to the community. Hearing loss is the number one growing disability among senior citizens – they will find themselves depending on captioning to listen to the message.

We want to participate fully in all programs and services at our local church because it serves as a vital resource that empowers us to be fully integrated in the community. If one of us who are deaf or hard of hearing sees the services with captions on TV, we can interact with other church members, neighbors, fellow employees, family members, and service professionals in the local

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community. We stand to benefit from the "local connection" that national religious programs are unable to provide.

We know that all video programmers have had ten years to prepare for the captioning regulations now in place, and temporary waivers when appropriate. When you give full permanent exemptions to the two programmers, it reverses all the access we have worked on for years. We ask that programmers consider other possible revenue options such as sponsorships, long-term captioning service agreements, and aftermarket sales (videotapes or DVDs) to cover and minimize the cost of captioning. Or, they can reduce other expenses in their production budgets to enable the provision of captioning.

Closed captioning gives me a) access to news that is indispensable to the community, b) entertainment that is an integral part of our lives, and c) education that paves the way for us to become self-sufficient in society. The information that everyone in the community receives is also important to me and I can only get it if it is captioned.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Ronald F. De Mey

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San Francisco, CA 94105

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cc:

Monica Desai, Chief, Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau
Jay Keithley, Deputy Chief (Policy), Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau Tom
Chandler, Chief, Disability Rights Office Cheryl King, Deputy Chief, Disability
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US Senator Barbara Boxer and US Senator Diane Feinstein

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